

Battery Commander's OPORD

The key to success in the battery orders process is standardization and training. The single biggest factor in the orders process is time. Time will determine the level of detail in the planning process, who attends the order, and what rehearsal will be conducted. A standardized orders format in the battery tactical standard operating procedures (TACSOP) provides all subordinate leaders with what will be covered and in what order. The battery commander (BC) must be familiar with the process and ensure all subordinate leaders understand the orders process. The five paragraph OPORD format provides a solid base for the battery operation order.

Based on time, determine who attends the battery operation order. Time permitting, the BC should issue the order to platoon leaders (PL's) and have PL's conduct their own platoon orders process and troop leading procedures (TLPs). This allows the BC to train his PLs to be battery commanders. If time is limited the BC may need to brief the battery operation order down to the section chief level. The technique used is dependent on the BCs personality, presentation style and the level of understanding within the battery. There are several techniques available to the BC:

a. Oral presentation - Commonly used when time is short. A standard format is critical when using this method. This method limits the audience's ability to grasp the relevance and/or time/distance involved in an operation.

b. Map and overlay presentation – This is the easiest to do but only those few personnel that can comprehend the one common map that you are using will actually understand. To assist in this technique the BC can use the BOC / POC situation map to brief the order. Ensure all attendees bring their map to the operation order. "A technique" is to have the BOC / POC reproduce overlays for all track commanders (TC's), this is particularly effective if all TCs have standardized map boards. This ensures every one is on the same overlay and has the same graphics posted.

c. Terrain sketch presentation - This technique may produce the best results with the time required to prepare the sketch. The sketch can be used to brief the brigade and field artillery scheme of maneuver. The sketch should include significant terrain in the area of operations, phase lines, and grid references. The sketch does take some time to create; however, a talented soldier with some specific guidance should have no problem producing a sketch in time for the order presentation.

d. Terrain model presentation – May be the most effective technique because it allows the audience to visualize the operation as you describe it. It is very important that chiefs bring their maps to be able to annotate key terrain, routes, etc. A limitation is that a terrain model takes time to construct and even in its simplest form, must convey the link of the terrain to the graphics and the operation. Another technique is to use a drop cloth terrain model, drawing key terrain on a canvas or SICCUP floor you can expedite the construction process. This technique is very effective when conducting the orders process in inclement weather or during hours of darkness. Use your TACSOP to designate who is responsible for constructing the terrain model and what the standard is for the terrain model. The option of having various people rotate the construction does not ensure quality control. Again the BOC / POC personnel are best qualified and resourced to construct the terrain model.

3. When the Section Chiefs come to the order, they should have a standardized fill-in-the-blank laminated order format and a map with graphics posted.

The remainder of this paper focuses on the five paragraphs of the battery operation order. Each paragraph is explained in detail and the points are reinforced using a battery OPORD example. This describes "A WAY" to conduct the battery orders process. Not covered in this paper is the use of the Warning order process. The battery commander can use multiple warning orders to initiate action as soon as the battery receives change of mission. The BC can anticipate the next mission and if the battalion task organizes EFATs can initiate action on PCCs without guidance from battalion. The BC's ability to anticipate can save the battery valuable time. Time is the one resource the battery never has enough of during combat operations.

Battery OPORD

1. Situation

a. Orient the audience using a map or terrain model, to the area of operations (AO) and the area of interest (AI) that affect the battery. The AO is defined by the brigade or division boundaries. The AI will include the AO as well as all areas outside the AO that the enemy can use to influence the mission, this always includes as far back as the enemy artillery can range you from, but can also include much further back if the enemy is attacking.

b. Provide light and weather data. Explain the significance of how the light and weather will effect friendly forces and enemy forces. Address NVG window and illumination and the effects on the operation.

c. Describe the terrain using the Observation, Cover and Concealment, obstacles, Key Terrain, and Avenues of Approach (OCOKA). In describing the terrain, remember what is important to the chiefs: soil content, slope of the valley walls, hilltops that effect XO min QE, intervening crests...etc.

c. Explain the enemy situation as it relates to the current situation and the mission. Then describe the threat to the battery. Focus on enemy composition and strength. Identify weapon systems and capabilities and how they will be employed. Use the battery execution matrix to describe enemy actions by phase as part of the concept of the operation in paragraph 3b. Apply the "SO WHAT" factor. For example:

Phase 1 – As we prepare for operations through the night, the primary threat to the battery will be mounted and dismounted recon (2-6 man patrols in BRDMs) gathering information/intelligence and when possible, will attack undefended positions. Its important to ensure we stay alert and prepared for dismounted attacks.

d. Explain the maneuver brigade mission and commanders intent, the FA battalion mission and commanders intent to ensure all soldiers to understand how they fit into the fight.

2. Mission. Unless the battery is conducting autonomous operations use the battalion mission statement. The mission statement is who, what, when, where, and why. Keep it brief, the details are covered in paragraph 3.

3. Execution

a. Concept of the Operation. Give commanders (BC) intent and describe the concept of how the battery is going to execute the mission. Use the map or terrain model to explain how the battery moves, and executes assigned EFATs.

b. Battery Execution Matrix. Use the battery execution matrix to brief the details of the operation by phase. The battery execution matrix should cover all areas essential to the battery's success. **(SEE BATTERY EXECUTION MATRIX)**

c. Special Instructions. The battery TACSOP should include Precombat checks (PCCs) focused on EFATs and the Threats to the battery as a minimum. Identify the PCCs, precombat Inspections (PCIs), and rehearsals the battery must conduct and in what priority. The battery TACSOP needs to include standardized PCCs (FM6-50 has several) and also identify PCIs inherent to those PCCs. PCCs are conducted at the section chief level. PCIs are conducted by the platoon level leadership. The BC must determine the PCCs, PCIs, and rehearsals.

Rehearsals are conducted based on the time available and necessity. The battery rockdrill rehearsal is critical, this is where the BC verifies everyone understands his intent and the concept of the operation. Attendee's should include all TCs. The BC needs to ask questions, make the battery rockdrill an interactive exercise. Force section chiefs and ammunition team chiefs to backbrief portions of the operation order. Use the Battery execution format to conduct the battery rockdrill. Other rehearsals should include tasks the battery has to execute that not standardized or are critical to the mission's success.

4. Combat Service Support.

The primary focus for combat service support at the battery level is on class III, class V, maintenance, and medical. Generally, during a battle class III will not be a factor. The critical planning factor is class V. The BC must determine the ammunition requirements for his battery based on the EFATs and the scheme of fires. The BC

must know the amount of ammunition available by type of projectile, propellant, and fuze. The battery leadership must provide accurate ammunition counts to the BC as part of his mission analysis. Next the BC develops "Turret/HMMWV Loads". Turret loads refers to the number and type of rounds / propellants loaded inside the self propelled howitzer or in the prime mover for towed howitzers. The BC develops turret loads based on the EFATs, by having the ammunition turret loaded the section is prepared to execute the battery's EFATs. The turret load can change by phase of the operation. The BC must establish resupply triggers for the battery. The BC does this based on the EFATs assigned to the battery. Each EFAT will identify, based on battlefield calculus, the number and type of ammunition required to accomplish the EFAT. The BC establishes resupply triggers from the FAASV to the howitzer, and from the PLS to the FAASV. The resupply triggers need to be clear (i.e. "8 round DPICM" this tells the howitzer section chief when he fires 8 rounds he needs to resupply his howitzer.) It is critical that the leadership identify and rehearse the EFAT's to verify that the battery will have the ammunition at the critical time and place when the EFAT is to be executed. The BC must also address the maintenance recovery plan and the CASEVAC plan, these can be addressed in the battery execution matrix.

5. Command and Control.

- a. Chain of Command. Identify chain of command and the BCs location during the battle.
- b. Frequency and Call signs. Address as per SOI, coordinate with adjacent maneuver units prior to execution to deconflict land resources, AXPs etc.
- c. Challenge and password.

6. Risk assessment. Identify risks inherent to the operation and the control measures put in place to reduce the risks.

BATTERY OPORD

1. SITUATION

a. LIGHT & WEATHER DATA / EFFECTS

HIGH 77	MOONRISE 2359	SUNRISE 0611
LOW 46	MOONSET 1316	SUNSET 1850
WIND DIRECTION NW	NVG WINDOW 2323 / 0550	BMNT 0516
WIND SPEED 15 knots	% ILLUM 65	EENT 1745

b. TERRAIN (EFFECTS ON FRIENDLY & ENEMY FORCES)

OBSERVATION- *High ground provides excellent observation and fields of fire, maximizing direct fire weapon ranges.*

COVER & CONCEALMENT – *Little vegetation, providing only individual concealment. The rocky broken terrain in the hills and mountains provide excellent cover from direct fire. On the valley floor, wadi's provide the only cover. It is difficult to conceal vehicle movements during daylight hours because of dust trails.*

OBSTACLES – *Hill masses, rock outcroppings and boulder fields, vic. Grid: NJ2394, NJ2592, and NJ2322.*

KEY TERRAIN – *East range road, Colorado Wadi, Iron Triangle, Hill 760, Hill 800, Hilltop (vic NK2617)*

AVENUES OF APPROACH – *The central corridor, consists mostly of open areas which allows for fast easy movement for up to regiment sized units.*

c. ENEMY FORCES. (FOCUS ON STRENGTH AND COMPOSITION)

AGMB formation, 7-10 T-80s, 21-29 BMPs, 3 AT-5s (Reinforce weapons system capabilities) RAG – 12 Tubes of 2S1s, 2 BNs of 2S19s. The DAG consists of: 1 BN of BM-21s, 2 BNs of 2S5s, 1 BN of 2S7s. Enemy has Chemical PK & NP. (Again, reinforce weapon capabilities and range capabilities) Identify where the enemy will likely use chemical munitions to influence the battle.

d. FRIENDLY FORCES (BATTALION MISSION AND CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION)

Use the map to brief brigade mission, concept of the operation, FA battalion mission, and concept of the operation.

2. MISSION

A/1-41 FA provides fires in support of 1BCT MTC to PL Corsair 080600May97 to expand the division lodgment area and to protect the northern flank.

3. EXECUTION

a. CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION (BRIEF OFF THE MAP, SKETCH, OR TERRAIN MODEL BY PHASE.)

b. EXECUTION (THIS IS THE MEAT OF THE ORDER. USE THE BATTERY EXECUTION MATRIX AND MAP, SKETCH, OR TERRAIN MODEL. TALK ABOUT EFATs, KEY TASKS, AND BATTERY LOCATION/MOVEMENT FOR EACH PHASE.)

c. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

PCC'S (IN ORDER BY PRIORITY)	PCI'S (CONDUCTED BY)	REHEARSALS
FASCAM MASS NBC CASEVAC POC Changeover	M2- Headspace & Timing (PSG) Turret loads (PL/PSG) Test M8 Alarms (NBC NCO) M256 kits (PSG) Straps & Litters (PSG) Map boards w/ graphics (PL/FDO)	FASCAM fire missions React to ground threat (defeat a single vehicle) ID and Navigate a breach in a mine field (Division standard)

PCCs/PCIs and Rehearsals based on EFATs and the THREAT. Identify a time to be complete.

BATTERY TIMELINE

0600: Received FASP
 0730: Issued WARNO
 0740: Began PCCs identified in WARNO
 1000: Issue Battery Order (TIME NOW)
 1130: PL Brief Back
 1300: Battalion Rock Drill
 1500: PCCs Complete
 1600: Battery Rock Drill
 1700: Rehearsals

0400: PCIs complete
 0500: Stand-to
 0600: IPRTF (LD/DEFEND NLT)

4. SERVICE SUPPORT

a. TURRET LOAD (SEE EXECUTION MATRIX)

	HEF	HEM	HEA	HEB	HER	SMA	SMB	SMC	ILA	ADAM	RAAM	CPH	GB	WB	119	203		
GUN	20		7		5			5				2		16	20	5		
CAT	30		15		7			10	10	2	16	3		40	46	7		
PLS	176													176				

b. RESUPPLY TRIGGERS: # of RDS and TYPE

8 RDs HEF resupply Howitzer
 30 RDs HEF resupply FAASV from PLS
 9 -119 powders, resupply with WB

5. COMMAND AND CONTROL

- a. SUCCESSION OF COMMAND
- b. FREQUENCY AND CALL SIGNS: IAW SOI AND BATTERY TACSOP
- c. CHALLENGE AND PASSWORD

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

BATTERY EXECUTION MATRIX

	1	2	3	4
PHASE / TRIGGER EVENT	<i>2-1 Infiltration</i>	<i>R & S Plan</i>	<i>LD to defeat AGMB</i>	<i>Defeat Main Body</i>
ENEMY ACTIONS	<i>Scouts out, TF Angel secures hidden valley in the south & areas North of Old OBJ Harry</i>	<i>Phase 1 fires to neut. C2, PCHEM & FASCAM to shape battlefield</i>	<i>CRP – LD on contact report. Phase 2 fires +30 min. FSE –LDs to fix LDTF; envelop & dest. TF , AGMB exploits</i>	<i>Main Body exploits success. Begins phase 3 fires. Phase 4 fires in the close battle</i>
THREAT TO THE BATTERY	Indirect fires Chemical	Mounted/ Dismount Ground (RECON)	Counterfire Air	Counterfire Ground
MANEUVER FORCES	<i>2-1 scouts – LD 2-1 MB conducts truck infiltration COLTS inserted</i>	<i>2-1 INF denies enemy maneuver corridors. 3-7 recons South to LOA, 3-69 recons North to LOA</i>	<i>3-7 leads, 3-69 follows, echelon left, 2-1 establishes blocking position</i>	<i>3-7 destroys AGMB & fixes Main Body, 3-69 destroys Main Body</i>
BATTERY LOCATION	<i>NK 361188 AOF 2100 Occupy hides IPRTF 081100 RSOP ALT Hides</i>		<i>Follow 3-69, PA Steel, AOF 2100 % to PZA2, LOA PL Warhawk AOF 1800 AXIS/LANE/Route</i>	<i>% move to PZA3 LOA PL Ford, AOF 1600 % to PZA4, LOA PL Mustang, % to PZA5, LOA Corsair AXIS/LANE/Route</i>
EFAT / PURPOSE TGT# / AMMO	<i>Mass HE 6 RDs AE0002, to support 2-1 INF Infiltration. On call, be prepared FASCAM, AE0001, to delay 1-10 FA Primary shooter, A/1-41 Alternate shooter</i>		<i>Mass DPICM AE0051 3 RDs, To suppress the FSE AE0052 9 RDs Cfire AE0053 9 RDs Main Body</i>	<i>Mass DPICM AE0055 10 RDs AE0057 4 RDs To Destroy Main Body</i>
SCHEME OF FIRES				
MOVEMENT TRIGGER	<i>Move out of hide positions, 081000</i>		<i>Stay 1000m to rear of trail tank Co. (D Co.)</i>	
ORDER OF MARCH	<i>1,2, TRNS PLT Wedge</i>		<i>1A North 2A South</i>	<i>1A stays in North Sector 2A stays in Southern Sector</i>
MVMT TECHNIQUE / LOA	<i>LOA PL Thunderbolt</i>		<i>PLT Wedge / Column Through passes</i>	
SURVIVE CRITERIA	<i>% upon receiving Cfire</i>	<i>3 MSNs / 30 Min.</i>	<i>2MSNs / 10Min.</i>	
ADA STATUS	<i>Yellow / Tight</i>			
NBC LEVEL	<i>MOPP 0</i>	<i>MOPP 2 % Decon</i>		
DECON SITES	<i>Decon- NK300158</i>	<i>NK 335201</i>		
LOGPAC / BRP	<i>NK310159</i>	<i>AXP –NK 301401</i>	<i>BAS- NK 320134</i>	<i>R3SP – NK397132</i>